

There's An App for That

Written by Denise K. Spencer

Tuesday, 30 December 2014 14:27 - Last Updated Tuesday, 30 December 2014 14:44



Now that January has arrived, many of us are learning to use the new technologies that have been gifts of the season. The cell phones, tablets, e-readers, laptops and flat screen TVs have been unwrapped, squealed over, and taken to new levels of usefulness. Is it a tool or a toy? Either way, for many of us, they have taken over our lives.

I love the new technologies as much as the next person. I upgraded my smart phone recently, and believe it or not, it not only saves me time, but money as well. And because of my amazing MacBook Air, I was able to work from NYC when I visited my brand new granddaughter. I downloaded some new apps while I was there as well; there is even one for tracking the baby's milk consumption and frequency of diaper changes. Who knew?

I confess to also feeling some sadness over the new technologies. Many times in the past few months I saw people in a restaurant, having their meal and reading or texting on their smart phone, rather than carrying on a conversation. And the strange sounds that come from suit jackets and purses during concerts, sermons and business meetings have become almost the rule rather than the exception.

The more often I hear people say, "There's an app for that," the more I think perhaps there are other "apps" we should consider.

For example, I am **app**alled when I consider the widening technology gap that exists between those in poverty and others, and how this creates a widening education and employment gap. Contributing to causes that assist young people and unemployed people to have access to these technologies can help.

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I am saddened by the **app**etites unsatisfied, the frayed and thinning **app**arel, and the out-of-commission

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liances in the lives of those in poverty, while the lines outside of the

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le Stores get longer and longer. One of my resolutions for the New Year is that I will give to a charitable cause at least the same amount I invest in new technologies.

It is **app**arent that far too many cannot afford an **app**ointment with a healthcare professional, though it may be badly needed. I

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laud all who contribute to causes that can help in these areas, such as the

Johnson Medical Assistance Fund

, or the

Volunteers in Medicine Endowment Fund

at the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, and to the various other local organizations that serve this population.

As I **app**raise the needs of so many of our Lowcountry communities, I offer an **appeal** to all who read this: Resolve, in the year ahead, to remember those less fortunate each time you

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roach one of the amazing technological devices in your home or office. And in remembering,

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reciate not only what you have, but also the many who have so much less. Choose a cause; write a check.

Live generously.

It's as easy as

app

le pie!

Denise K. Spencer is President and CEO of the [Community Foundation of the Lowcountry](#).